

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 SAM-01 SAJ-01 /073 W

----- 023702

R 030843Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5497

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652: DECONTROL AFTER ONE YEAR

TAGS: ELAB, PINT, IT

SUBJECT: ITALIAN LABOR LEADER SUES PAPER OVER CIA CHARGES

SUMMARY: IN THE MIDST OF THE CIA-RELATED ALLEGATIONS AND CHARGES WHICH ARE COURSING UNABATED THROUGH THE ITALIAN PRESS, SOME OF THE INDIVIDUALS ACCUSED OF RECEIVING US FUNDS ARE FIGHTING BACK. VITO SCALIA, LEADING FIGURE OF THE MINORITY WITHIN THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC-DERIVED LABOR CONFEDERATION CISL AND CURRENTLY SUSPENDED FROM ALL CISL ACTIVITIES AFTER HAVING BEEN FOUND DISLOYAL TO CISL OBJECTIVES, HAS SUED THE NEWSPAPER WHICH HAS IDENTIFIED HIM AS A RECENT RECIPIENT OF US FUNDS. END SUMMARY.

ON JANUARY 26, THE TURIN DAILY STAMPA SERA ASSERTED THAT FOUR LEADING POLITICAL FIGURES -- DEFENSE MINISTER ANDREOTTI, MINISTER OF INDUSTRIES DONAT-CATTIN AND SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC LEADER SARAGAT, IN ADDITION TO SCALIA--HAD RECEIVED MONIES FROM THE CIA DURING THE MONTHS OF DECEMBER, 1975 AND JANUARY, 1976. ALL FOUR MEN DENOUNCED THE CHARGES AS FALSE. SCALIA IMMEDIATELY THREATENED TO BRING A SUIT AGAINST STAMPA SERA FOR DEFAMATION.

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ON JANUARY 30, SCALIA'S ATTORNEYS FOLLOWED THROUGH AND DEPOSITED

THE REQUISITS PAPERS FOR THE INITIATION OF A SUIT. SIMULTANEOUSLY, SCALIA SAID HE ADDRESSED A TELEGRAM TO AFL-CIO PRESIDENT GEORGE MEANY CONTAINING THE FOLLOWING TEXT: "IN VIEW OF THE OGNOBLE SCANDALOUS CAMPAIGN WHICH IS CURRENTLY BEING WAGED IN ITALY, I WISH TO REQUEST OF YOU, AS THE MOST AUTHORITATIVE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE AMERICAN WORKERS, THAT YOU REQUEST THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND THE CHAIRMAN OF THE US CONGRESS TO PUBLISH IMMEDIATELY THE NAMES OF ALL THE ORGANIZATIONS AND PERSONS INVOLVED IN CIA ACTIVITIES IN ITALY. I INFORM YOU THAT ANALOGOUS REQUESTS HAVE BEEN FORWARDED BY THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT AND BY OUR PRESIDENT OF THE CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES."

COMMENT: SCALIA, OF COURSE, HAS EVERY RIGHT TO EXPECT TO WIN HIS SUIT ASSUMING STAMPA SERA CANNOT COME UP WITH PROOF. HIS PROBABLE MOTIVE IN REQUESTING THE REVELATION OF ALL RECIPIENTS OF CIA ASSISTANCE (THOUGH HE DENIES IT) IS HIS HOPE THAT HIS ARCH-ENEMY, CISL SECRETARY GENERAL BRUNO STORTIM WOULD APPEAR ON SUCH A LIST. THE WIRE TO MEANY IS GRANDSTAND PLAY DESIGNED TO UNDERSCORE HIS INDIGNATION OVER THE CHARGES. VOLPE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LITIGATION, LABOR UNION OFFICIALS, THE PRESS, ALLEGATIONS, FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976ROME01741
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760040-0271
From: ROME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760287/aaaacyuv.tel
Line Count: 81
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11 FEB 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <11 FEB 2004 by GarlanWA>; APPROVED <20 MAY 2004 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ITALIAN LABOR LEADER SUES PAPER OVER CIA CHARGES SUMMARY: IN THE MIDST OF THE CIA-RELATED ALLEGATIONS AND CHARGES
TAGS: ELAB, PINT, IT, CIA, CISL, (SCALIA, VITO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006